

News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Board approves cost-effective transit system for the High Desert Region

SAN BERNARDINO-The Board of Supervisors approved the amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the County and the Cities of Victorville, Adelanto and Hesperia, and the Town of Apple Valley, and Barstow to reflect the merger of the Barstow Area Transit (BAT) with the Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTa). The merger will combine the two transit systems under a single governing body to provide a more cost-effective transit system for the High Desert Region.

On May 19, 2014 the City of Barstow contracted with the VVTa to provide operations, maintenance, and administration of BAT, on an interim basis for a one year trial period, while pursuing the merger of the two transit systems. BAT provides rural fixed route and dial-a-ride services within the City of Barstow and in portions of the unincorporated County including Lenwood, Grandview, Yermo, Daggett, Newberry Springs and Hinkley.

Currently, the County of San Bernardino, the Cities of Victorville, Adelanto, and Hesperia, and the town of Apple Valley are members of a Joint Powers Agreement for transit services in the Victor Valley area. The amended JPA incorporates all prior JPA amendments in addition to providing for the merger of BAT into VVTa.

"The Board of Supervisors is always looking for ways to effectively improve services to our residents," stated Supervisor Ramos, who was appointed to the Victor Valley Transit Authority Board of Directors as a result of the new Joint Powers Agreement. "This merger will ensure the development of a well-organized transit system for residents of the High Desert."

The Barstow City Council must still approve the merger. The approval will be considered at the June 1, 2015 City Council meeting.

Information regarding this item can be found on the May 19, 2015 Board agenda at <http://cob-sire.sbcounty.gov/sirepub/>.

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